



ProRail Nebraska, Inc.

Please Reply to:

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Mayor's Transportation and Mobility Study

Dear Members:

As you conclude your study and prepare to make recommendations, I urge you to include the following within your recommendations to the City of Lincoln:

1. That the routes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Light Rail lines in the Lincoln area be selected so that proper zoning can be put in place to support mass transit. This should be done even though you find that currently Light Rail can not be built.
2. That a Mass Transit District be established to cover Lincoln and Lancaster County with separate taxing authority and that Star Tran and other transportation functions be removed from the Department of Public Works.
3. That the Zoning Code of the City of Lincoln be amended to include a new category or categories "Mass Transit I, Mass Transit II" etc. so that transportation based planning can take place to insure the future growth of mass transit.
4. Provide additional funding to Star Tran so that it can increase frequency of service, provide night and Sunday service and depart from a pure "hub and spoke" system and use a grid system or combination of grid and hub and spoke.
5. Regard public transportation as a "utility" rather than a "for profit" business. If users were made to pay the full cost of streets, water lines, sewer lines and electric transmission lines, we wouldn't have much of them. A "profit" test is inappropriate for an essential public service.
6. Acknowledge that merely putting down more lanes and building bypasses will not solve Lincoln's long-term transportation problems. Good public transit is the only solution. "You can't pave your way out of congestion." Conclusion of a study from the Texas Transportation Institute.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD L. SCHMELING, President